

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:**

The invention relates to an isolated polynucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence which codes for the sigC gene from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, and a host-vector system having a coryneform host bacterium, such as *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, and a vector which carries at least the sigC gene according to SEQ ID No 1, and the use of polynucleotides which comprise the sequences according to the invention as hybridization probes.

**Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:**

[0056] The following microorganisms were filed as a pure culture at the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DSMZ, Mascheroder Weg 1b D-38124, Brunswick, Germany) according to the Budapest Convention:

- *Escherichia coli* DH5 $\alpha$ mcr/pEC-XK99EsigCb2ex as  
DSM 14375 on 29 June 2001
- *Corynebacterium glutamicum* DSM 5715/pEC-XK99E as  
DMS 13455 on 17 April 2000.